

STATE

Catholic bishops say amendment is unclear

By Anne Windishar
Gazette Telegraph

Saying Amendment 2 is unclear, the Catholic bishops of Colorado have declined to take a position on the gay-rights measure that will be decided by voters in the Nov. 3 election.

The bishops said Amendment 2, which would ban laws that protect gays and lesbians from discrimination, applies to celibate as well as practicing homosexuals. Lumping both together is contrary to the church's position on homosexuality,

which accepts homosexual orientation but condemns the act.

"The church sees behavior and orientation as two different things," said Douglas Delaney, executive director for the Colorado Catholic Conference. "Orientation is not necessarily a choice, but the action is a choice. And the church is clear that sex belongs only in the married covenant of a man and woman."

The amendment says people should not be granted status similar to that enjoyed by minorities and women based on ho-

mosexual or bisexual orientation, conduct or relationships. The bishops felt they couldn't take a position pro or con because the measure "confuses the crucial distinction" between people who engage in homosexual acts and those who are merely drawn toward homosexuality.

"In the Catholic tradition, recognition of this distinction is absolutely essential to preserve respect for the dignity of persons," the bishops said.

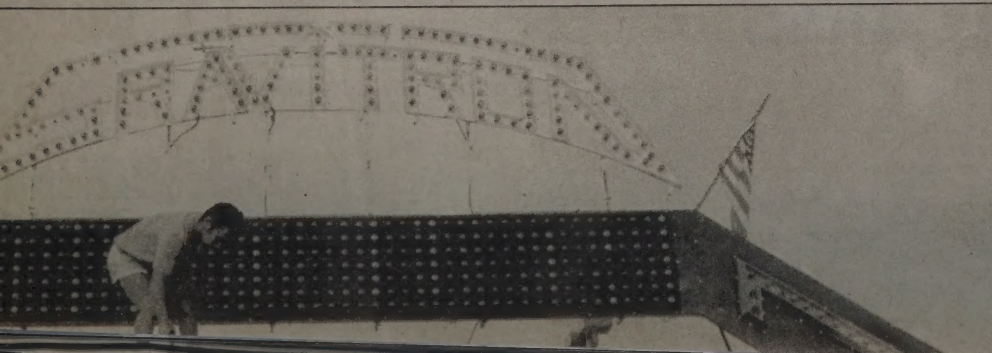
Several other regional church organi-

zations have issued statements opposing the amendment, including the Unitarian Church, the Rocky Mountain Chapters of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. No denominations have formally supported the amendment, although many individual churches are backing it.

The bishops' statement was signed by J. Francis Stafford, Archbishop of Denver; Arthur N. Tafoya, Bishop of Pueblo; and Richard C. Hanifen, Bishop of Colorado Springs.

CITY/REGION

Nate Parsons/Gazette Telegraph



Trucker buys lotto winner in Calhan

Associated Press

Father's Day was special for trucker Tom Cirbo this year.

That's the day he celebrated becoming a lotto jackpot winner.

Cirbo, 68, of Matheson said he bought three lotto tickets at three different stores Saturday and the winner was purchased at a Calhan convenience store. He said he realized he was a winner when he watched the drawing Saturday night on

television.

"I jumped right on the phone and called my family," he said.

Cirbo, his wife, Frances, 64, their four children and other family members received his first annual check Wednesday at the Colorado Lottery's Denver office. It was for \$29,392 after taxes. The next 24 annual checks will grow by 3.7 percent a year; the final check in 2016 will be for \$70,362 after taxes.